

Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to S. Robert Powell by the American Poultry Association at Knoxville, TN, December 6, 2014:



S. Robert Powell

Robert is the only member of the APA who has been named a Grand Master Exhibitor of standard Partridge Plymouth Rocks, which he has raised and shown for over 30 years, his birds having been named Champion Standard and Grand Champion of the Show on many occasions over the years. At present he also raises and shows standard Malays, his original stock having come from Basil Smith, that bloodline has been enriched by Robert during the past decade with birds of the highest quality from Carl Brantley. At the Yankee Fall Classic in Syracuse, NY in October 2013, a Wheaten Malay hen shown by Robert was named Champion Standard Chicken.

In 1998 Robert was licensed by the APA to judge standard and bantam chickens, and since then has judged 90 shows from Boston to Billings—and at dozens of places in between. He is best known as a judge of standard chickens. Robert's mentor in poultry judging was the late George Schroeder, the legendary breeder and exhibitor of bantam Cochins, who was widely regarded as one of the leading judges of exhibition poultry in America in the twentieth century.

Robert is a prolific writer on exhibition poultry and scores of his articles on all aspects of poultry husbandry, history, and management have been published in the yearbooks of the APA, in "News and Views," and in other national poultry publications over the past 30 years. In 2006, he and Duff H. S. Wehle wrote and published "The History of the Madison Square Garden Poultry Show, 1883-1953." In 1998, Robert wrote the American Game bantam section of the highly acclaimed German encyclopedia of bantam poultry, "Handbuch der Zwerghuhnrasen der Welt" that was published that year.

Robert believes strongly that it is important to establish and maintain text and photo archives about exhibition poultry—for the record and for research purposes—and to that end has donated microfiche copies of his poultry papers for the period 1988-2001 to both the National Poultry

Museum and Heritage Center in Bonners Springs, KS, and to the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD.

In 2009, Robert donated to the Albert R. Mann Library at Cornell University his personal collection of 721 issues of "Poultry Press" for the period 1943-2000 (originals plus 14 rolls of 35 millimeter silver archival microfilm). Through funding from the American Poultry Historical Society (Madison, WI) a copy of the complete set of this microfilm edition of "Poultry Press, 1943-2000" has also been placed in the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD.

Robert served as APA District 2 director for the period 2000-2006. To begin his service to the APA, he created and launched the APA District 2 webpage, which he actively managed throughout his six years of service as APA director. In the six years that he served as APA District 2 Director, he attended every meeting of the APA's Board of Directors and every APA general-membership meeting (Woodstock, Wapakoneta, Lincoln, Fort Worth, Columbus, Lucasville, Lake City, Syracuse, Delmarva). At those meetings he actively advocated the interests and voiced the concerns of APA members in District 2 and elsewhere before the governing board and the membership of the organization.

As an APA director, he served as Chairman of the APA Membership Committee, which not only created and published a new APA membership recruitment brochure but also distributed 7,500 copies of that brochure throughout North America. In addition he initiated a survey of APA members who allowed their memberships in the APA to lapse and requested their opinions of the quality and value to them of the APA's products and services. Robert also participated actively in the process of correcting and revising the 1998, 2001, and 2006 editions of the APA's "American Standard of Perfection."

During the poultry and premises identification hysteria in the first decade of this century, Robert chaired the APA/ABA Joint Committee on Poultry Identification (with David Adkins, Pat Lacey, Don Schrider, and Bill Wulff) that worked with the US Department of Agriculture NAIS/APHIS to produce the draft document in which were described the bird identification standards and procedures that might be followed in the exhibition, 4-H, youth, and backyard poultry industries to identify birds and track them to specific premises in the event of an outbreak of a disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery of that disease. As a result of the work by this committee and its members, the USDA and a broad range of commercial and non-commercial poultry and avian groups now regard the APA and the ABA as important participants in all discussions and meetings relative to the Poultry Subchapter of the National Animal Identification System.

Robert is an enthusiastic promoter of exhibition and backyard poultry. In 1997, he arranged and orchestrated the day-long visit by Martha Stewart on May 3rd of that year to the ABA Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention, hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club, in Bloomsburg, PA. At that show, Martha Stewart chose the most beautiful bird in the show, a White Crested Black Polish hen, shown by Joel and Ellen Henning. Footage that was shot by the film crew that accompanied Martha Stewart on this visit to Bloomsburg became the basis of a 30-minute program about exhibition poultry that has been broadcast nationally on Martha Stewart Living no less than seven times. In conversations with Martha Stewart in recent years, Martha Stewart has told Robert that the poultry show program at Bloomsburg has been one of

the most popular shows in the history of the Martha Stewart show. Robert also actively promoted exhibition and back-yard poultry and the book "Extraordinary Chickens" by Stephen Green-Armytage through an appearance on the "Today" show on October 25, 2000 with a dozen live exhibition birds. The positive poultry publicity that resulted from those national television broadcasts has contributed significantly to the present-day enthusiasm from coast to coast for back yard and exhibition poultry.

On Saturday, August 6, 2005, Robert judged at the New Jersey State Fair at Augusta, NJ. A writer and a photographer from the "New York Times" were also there. The result of this fortuitous combination of raw materials was the article "Scratch a Suburb, Find a Chicken" by Ken Druse that was published in the August 11, 2005 issue of the "New York Times" (lead-in on page 1; story with photographs on page 1 of House and Garden Section). The positive consequences for the exhibition poultry hobby from this article were many, in that it opened the door to exhibition poultry for a great many potential exhibition poultry enthusiasts everywhere.

Together with the Rev. Roland Romig and Don Perrin, Robert initiated and guided the three and one-half year process that resulted in the admission of pearl, lavender, and white Helmeted Guinea Fowl to the APA's "American Standard of Perfection" (January 2004, Lake City, FL). At the qualifying meet for Guinea Fowl, judged by Curtis R. Oakes, at Lucasville in October 2003, there were 220 Helmeted Guinea Fowl, of 13 varieties, in the show. The Champion Guinea of the Show was a Pearl hen shown by S. Robert Powell.

Robert was born and raised in northeastern Pennsylvania on a family farm that was established by his Scottish ancestors in the 1840s. In tribute to those Scots and to his English ancestors as well, Robert maintained for many years on that homestead, now designated a "Century Farm" by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a herd of Hereford cattle. Robert's father, a grandson of the Welsh bard Athenydd, raised production standard Light Brahmas, for meat and eggs, and White Holland turkeys, for the holiday markets.

Robert is a retired college teacher, who was awarded a Ph.D. by Indiana University in Bloomington in 1974, and over the years has taught French Language and Literature and the Humanities at George Washington University, Indiana University, SUNY Oswego, Brooklyn College, Susquehanna University, and Penn State University. He has been president of the Carbondale Historical Society for the past thirty years and is presently writing a 24-volume series on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad, the first commercially successful railroad in America. The first five volumes in that series were published in October 2014. In addition to raising and showing standard Partridge Rocks and Malays at the present time, Robert also raises Mute Swans and Jacobin pigeons.

To be the recipient of a lifetime achievement award by the American Poultry Association is a great honor and Robert is very pleased to here express his sincere thanks to the present officers and directors of the APA for this important award.

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